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Drew Pearson

ABC

2/1/53

61M

STAT

Cairo, exclusive--A Finnish tanker loaded with jet fuel for the Red Air Force is now on the high seas bound for North China. Unless this ship is stopped it will give Russian jet fighters thousands of tons of fuel to knock American pilots out of the sky. The ship took on its cargo at the Romanian Black Sea port of Bhurgas ? The Turkish Government, requested by the State Department to stop it as it passed through the Dardanelles, declined because Finland is not a member of the United Nations. Egypt also allowed it to pass through the Suez Canal, so this Finnish tanker is now sailing into the Indian Ocean bound for North China, and I would like to call upon the Nationalist Chinese Navy, about to be released, to halt the tanker before it delivers its deadly cargo.

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Oratunny ?, Minnesota-- Daniel Gainey?, who makes college fraternity pins and class pins for about every school in America, tops the list to be Ike's new Ambassador to Mexico.

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The White House--Well, after Mr. Truman's remark that he wasn't sure the Russians had an atom bomb, Eisenhower's Press Secretary, Jim Hagerty, suggested that Ike would save himself a lot of headaches by loaning Truman a Press Secretary to keep him from talking out of turn.

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The White House, exclusive-- Here are the inside facts of Eisenhower's plan to lift the restriction on the U.S. Seventh Fleet, thereby letting Chiang Kai-shek stage Commando raids on the China Mainland. The final decision to do this was reached only last Thursday by the National Security Council. Following this, the State Department drew up an Executive Order for Ike's signature which will revoke that part of the

Truman Order preventing Chiang's forces from hitting the Mainland but

it would keep in effect the other part of the Order which the Seventh

Fleet will defend Formosa against a Red invasion. Meanwhile, Gen.

George Olmsted #, Army Director of Military Assistance, is conferring

with Chiang Kai-shek in Formosa, right now, tonight, in order to send

more supplies. Also, the Chief of the Nationalist Navy, Adm. Mao

Chuh Chang # is secretly en route to Washington to map plans for bol-

stering the Nationalist Navy, giving it some over-age American vessels.

Now this plan is primarily the brainchild of Adm. Radford, who met

Eisenhower at Iwo Jima last December and in one hour's walk around the

island made a lot of headway in selling his ideas. However, there's

one very important thing to remember: That Chiang Kai-shek's Navy is

almost nil, so small in fact it could not even protect Formosa from

invasion. That's why the idea discussed by Eisenhower in Korea is to

turn over-age American vessels to Chiang Kai-shek, to be used by him

to harass the China coast, and that's the real reason why the British

and French are so worried about this whole idea. They fear the spread

of war. Formosa--The U.S. Army is already moving captured Chinese

prisoners to Formosa to join Chiang Kai-shek's Army if they want to go.

Seoul-- I have received a lot of letters from young officers in Korea

who have shown great heroism on the battlefield but who have not been

promoted. The fault, I can report to them, is not in the Pentagon

in Washington but with Congressman Glenn Davis ? of Wisconsin

who put a rider in the last Army Appropriations Bill which almost bans

promotions for junior officers until next July. So I would like to

urge Congress to remove the Davis Rider just as soon as possible in

fairness to these brave men in Korea.

AKR

(Commentator Drew Pearson, in what he calls "an exclusive and copyrighted"

news item, and to which fact of exclusiveness and copyright he invites the

attention of the AP, made known in his Sunday night broadcast over ABC

at 6 o'clock that American fliers of the Marines, Navy and Air Force

bombed and strafed United Nations lines by mistake 36 times in 1952,

according to a secret report from Korea to Pentagon. Reports 33 killed

and 74 wounded. Declares reports show marine airmen were almost careless

with score of 16 attacks on "friendly troops". Gives scores of attacks and losses caused by marines, Navy and Air Force fliers.)

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Now what Washington is buzzing about: The Scotch and bourbon highballs served at the White House reception for foreign ambassadors. At previous White House receptions the alcohol was disguised in the fruit punch..... Attention, Sen. Kefauver of Tennessee: When you reexamine Harold Talbot for the job of Air Secretary tomorrow I suggest you ask him about a dinner in Paris a year ago, attended by the Duke and Duchess of Windson, at which Talbot cursed out high French officials to their face...

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(Commentator's personal report" on progress of new Administration)...

Now, on the foreign front, Mr. Dulles is taking the calculated risk of antagonizing our Allies by telling them to put up or shut up on communism. It's a dangerous risk because they may call his bluff, but I think it's a risk he has to take. Personally, I hope to go to Europe fairly soon to report on how Mr. Dulles is doing, for, in my opinion, this is the most crucial period for peace in recent history. If Mr. Dulles loses his battle we will start coasting down hill toward real danger.

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Number one I predict that the President's State of the Union Message tomorrow will be 54 minutes long, will propose not only the removal of the Seventh Fleet but the construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway and the gradual ending of price-wage controls, though keeping standby powers to reimpose controls.

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Prediction Number three, an important American reversal in the Near

East: In recent years the Truman Administration took a vigorous stand against sending arms to Egypt for fear it would encourage more war with Israel, but I predict the Eisenhower Administration will send a special economic and military mission to Egypt, including jet planes to the Egyptian Army.

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Now here's a prediction about two very important appointees, one a Catholic, one a Protestant, both facing Senate opposition tomorrow. One is Dr. James Conant, president of Harvard, appointed as High Commissioner to Germany; the other is Gen. Bedell Smith, appointed Under Secretary of State, both men of great ability. Dr. Conant faces a barrage of Catholic criticism because he made a speech last year upholding public schools against private schools. Gen. Smith, a Catholic, is opposed by some Senators because he testified in defense of State Department official John Davies, accused by Sen. Pat McCarran of being pro-Communist. There is bitter opposition to both. However, Gen. Timothy ^{McINERNEY} ~~McInerney~~?, a friend of Gen. Smith's, has sought the good offices of Cardinal Spellman with Sen. McCarran regarding Dr. Conant. It happens that he has educated more Catholic boys at Harvard than ever before in history. So here is my prediction: After a Senate hearing both Gen. Smith and Dr. Conant will be confirmed --as they should be in our system of religious tolerance so necessary to make democracy live.

AKR